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The Russian here is surprised and pained that any person could have misconstrued his honest and honorable intentions.

Adjutant General Corbin says he is making lieutenants of better stuff than Funston every day. Who knows but lots of lieutenants have been made of better stuff than Corbin?

No one thinks more clearly points out the waning influence of the French than the circumstance that both Russia and Germany have substituted English for French in their schools.

There is cause to suspect that Japan is too eager to get into a war with Russia. David was too much for Goliath many years ago, but the David policy has not been successful to any extent since the first trial.

With an excess of expenditures the last year of \$3,800,000 over receipts, Russia is not in the best condition to enter upon a war, even with Japan, a fact that Russia, by its latest peaceful avowal, seems to appreciate.

Aguinaldo is much superior to the American anti-imperialist: He grasped the principles and recognized the benefits of American government after a few days' study, while they reject them after a lifetime of experience.

There is reason to believe the British government would give a good deal to know that Oom Paul Kruger was engaged, like Aguinaldo, in studying the English dictionary, preparatory to the issue of a proclamation of peace.

If any American is tempted to think the President's salary of \$50,000 a year too large he should ponder the King's civil list reported in the British Parliament. Including personal allowances to the King and Queen, for the King's household expenses, etc., it aggregates \$3,000,000 a year.

In the American social system of to-day there is only one thing worse than the exploitation of family and social scandals through the telegraph and press, and that is the existence of such scandals. In view of both it might fairly be asked, where are we and what are we coming to?

The ancient civilization of China does not appeal to us, but when the man of the ancient civilization enters the field of diplomacy the best of the new civilization is no match for him. He keeps the allies occupied in squabbles while he placidly carries out his own designs.

A dispatch from Chicago says that a list of provisions to be sent from that city to the army in the Philippines contains 2,388 one-pound cans of chicken tamales, and 1,008,000 two-pound cans of pigs' feet. A government that supplies its soldiers with such delicacies, in addition to substantials, is certainly a good purveyor.

A candidate for the running of the elevator in the Statehouse has asked an early response to his application because he intends to be a candidate for the City Council if he fails. Such zeal to serve the public is commendable, but there is cause to fear that it would be misunderstood if it should be announced in a fairly conducted primary.

During the past two weeks British consols have vibrated between 95 1/2 and 96, and a dispatch says there is no prospect of a material rise. The consols are British 3 per cent, national bonds, and are guaranteed by all the revenues at the command of the British government. A year ago consols sold in London at 104, and a short time before they were quoted at 104. The costly war with the Boers has hurt British credit. At the time the consols were selling at 96 our 3 per cents were quoted at 113 1/2 in New York. United States 3 per cents, sell considerably higher in London than the British 3 per cents.

International congratulations are queer. Emperor William, of Germany, is almost a fanatical Protestant, and the Sultan of Turkey is an equally pronounced Mussulman, yet when the latter escaped injury from an earthquake the Emperor wired him his profound congratulations upon "how manifestly God has protected your Majesty's precious life," and the Sultan wires back that nothing but the confidence in God enabled him to command himself at a critical moment, and that "I thank the Almighty, who is watching over my person and subjects and who preserved them from peril." It would take an ingenious person to draw the line in this correspondence between sincerity and hypocrisy.

There is a current belief in Germany that the present Emperor is threatened with insanity, if not already in its incipient stage, and that many of his recent eccentric utterances are due to this cause. It is thought by many to account for his extreme expressions of devotion to the divine right of kings, of his own sacredness, of the duty of all German soldiers to sacrifice their lives for him, etc. All of these expressions are in the direction of Imperial absolutism. They are not in accord with the drift of German sentiment, and are the cause of much unfavorable comment by leading German newspapers. Emperor William is not a well-balanced man, and it is quite within the possibilities that he may end his life in an asylum for insane.

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CHANGES IN EUROPE.

The report that Italy may withdraw from the triple alliance, composed of Italy, Germany and Austria, indicates a change in recent years in the relative strength and purposes of European nations. When the alliance was formed France was a menace on one side and Russia was a power which might attempt to extend itself westward if a combination were not made to resist such encroachments. Since the alliance was formed France has ceased to be a menace. Its population at a standstill and its debt an oppressive burden, France is not even a menace to Italy. For while Italy is the worst governed people in Europe, not counting Turkey, it has increased in population the past twenty years from 28,000,000 to 35,000,000 despite its loss by immigration. With an increasing population now only 3,000,000 less than that of France, Italy does not fear France. It will be possible for France to be an ally of some greater power, but it is, in all the elements which make nations rivals in European affairs, a declining nation.

Germany is the growing nation of Europe to-day. With the growth of its manufactures under the protective policy of Bismarck Germany can count more white civilized Europeans than any other European nation—56,000,000. If, as is predicted by some, the Austro-Hungarian empire shall fall to pieces on the death of the Emperor Francis Joseph, German Austria would add territory and 10,000,000 inhabitants to the German empire. Assured of the support of German Austria, Germany stands next and not far behind the United States in what may be called superior race population. France can do nothing against Germany unless it should join Russia, when Great Britain would be forced to sustain Germany for its own safety. But there are no indications that Russia desires to extend its borders westward. It seems to have found a larger and more profitable field for expansion in the east, to which it is devoting all its energies at the present time.

Thus it seems that the face of Europe has so changed during the eighteen years that the triple alliance has been in existence that it is no longer created for the purposes for which it was created—the protection of Germany, Austria and Italy against France and Russia. Its maintenance has always been a heavy burden upon Italy, since the agreement enforced first-class expenditures for army and navy upon a nation the general poverty of whose people has made it a second-rate power. France has a large army and a considerable navy for which it has no use, now that it has lost the power to take the initiative, so that the holding of France in check, for which the alliance was formed, is no longer necessary, unless its dissolution would embolden France to become the open ally of Russia.

PATENT RIGHTS AND PATENT WRONGS.

It has been stated recently and not contradicted that the Standard Oil Company has paid a large sum for a new patent for converting petroleum into heat and light, and that the invention is expected to surpass all existing patents and methods in results. A new process that will produce a fuel much cheaper than coal and a light cheaper than gas or electricity will become an important factor in twentieth century civilization. If the Standard Oil Company has secured control of such a patent it will be treated as a monopoly, and people will have to pay roundly for any benefit they may derive from it. The Standard Oil Company controls many patents and works them to increase its vast wealth at the expense of the people. The same is true of other private corporations which control public utilities, as, for instance, the Bell Telephone Company. People become so accustomed to the operation of these monopolies under our patent laws that they do not consider the inherent injustice of it or the possibility of applying a remedy. As a general principle it would seem that the gifts of nature ought to be free to all, and that no monopoly in such gifts should be created by the government or allowed to be created by an individual. A monopoly in air, if such a thing were possible, would be too monstrous to think of, yet in all cities there is a near approach to monopoly in water. A monopoly in light or fuel seems just as wrong in principle. If it were an open question and not too late for reconsideration it might be desirable for the government to own all the coal mines within its domain and furnish fuel to the people at bare cost. So of light and heat, which are equally necessities of life. But if this is not practicable it seems at least unwise and unjust for the government by its patent laws to encourage any assist in the creation of monopolies in any public utility. The patent system as a whole is right. It is right that inventors should enjoy for a term of years certain privileges in connection with the products of their brains, ingenuity and toil. Within certain limits patent laws are a great encouragement to inventive talent, and therefore to the progress and prosperity of the country. But when the best thought of the times is considering how public utilities may be brought more directly under public control and the rights of the people rescued from monopolies it is a question whether the government should lend itself to the creation of such monopolies by granting patents on inventions affecting public utilities. As a general rule physicians who make a discovery or invent an appliance calculated to benefit mankind decline to take out a patent on it. They give it for the benefit of the human race. This is a noble impulse, and it finds expression in the medical profession oftener than in any other.

To recur to the case in hand: If the Standard Oil Company has paid \$500,000 for the new fuel and light process, as stated, it expects, of course, to make a great deal more than that out of it. A patent is granted for seventeen years, and during that period the Standard Oil Company will doubtless extort from the public many times \$500,000 through a monopoly granted by the government. If it had been possible for the government in the first instance to pay the inventor his price for his process and then make it free to the world to be used by any and all companies, the people would have been immensely gainers and have saved the humiliation of contributing still further to the vast wealth of a corporation that has already extorted too much from them under the forms of law and under other patents. Wise and just as patent laws are, they are not perfect when they not only permit, but encourage, the creation of odious monopolies in nature's gifts and in public utilities. It is a question whether such inventions should not be denied the right of patent, or else the government reserve to itself the right of taking them over and making them free to the people. A patent right should not be made a patent wrong.

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FALSE ECONOMIC VIEWS.

An organization in Chicago calling itself the Social Economics Club has been considering the problem of the minimum of money that will enable a working boy or girl or student to live at home. Such a study may be useful, but it is quite as likely to be harmful. If such clubs consider discrimination in expenditure they can be useful, but if the object of this investigation is to ascertain upon how little a human being can subsist and yet labor or study with a view of adopting a low standard of living, it is pernicious in the extreme. In the matter of diet, overfeeding is bad for those who indulge, and advantageous to the physician, but overfeeding is usually an individual or a family indulgence, so that the penalty is restricted. Insufficient nutrition, however, has often caused the decay of the masses in whole nations. Other causes may be assigned for their decay and fall, but insufficient nourishment is at the bottom of these misfortunes. The half-fed man is like the engine run with half the proper amount of fuel. It has been a current opinion among a class of would-be educators that the best results in study can be obtained from a low diet. We have been told of students who made wonderful progress while subsisting on a few crackers each day, but those who have told these wonderful things have not followed the student with the hungry stomach and starved brain in after years and noted the destruction of the natural vitality forces. China is to-day an illustration of the condition of a whole people which has been the victim of insufficient diet for centuries.

But as a matter of economics the six-crackers-a-day and an apple meal is as unfortunate as it can be. The volume of the products of labor and machinery which a man can purchase and consume is the measure of his prosperity. When a compensation as wages and profits, it is sure to expend it liberally for food, clothing and other articles, the list of which increases with the capacity of purchase. Articles which are luxuries in the judgment of those who receive scanty compensation for their labor become the necessities of life to those who receive liberal returns for toil and enterprise. Large and diversified consumption keeps all the productive energies of a people employed, but the moment consumption dwindles industries falter, factories run on half time, wages decline and a lower standard of living is enforced. Not the least important factor in conditions which have placed this country at the head of the industrial world is that the American people are the best fed, best clothed and best housed in the world. The American workman is forcing his products into the world's markets to-day because, being the best fed, he is naturally the most intelligent and can do more work in a given time. They are the best fed people at the outset, and, as a matter of course, the best educated and most resolute who are controlling the world's affairs. The decaying nations can be named, and in all of them the masses are scantily fed. Defective systems of government made it impossible for the peasant in the rural sections and the common people in European cities to earn sufficient wages to purchase the food necessary to nutrition. Inability to purchase destroyed the market for foods and the time came when, by the loss of markets, it did not pay to till the soil as it should be, so that a half-starved people and soil brought decay.

Within reasonable limits economy is to be commended, but when it is carried to extremes it brings about general distress. Wage earners are urged to save money against a rainy day, and it is good advice within proper limits, but if every wage earner should deny himself and those dependent upon him everything but the necessities to earn wages, the wealth coming from labor and the full consumption of its products would soon be piled up in banks which would find no satisfactory borrowers because every industry would be paralyzed. Those well-meaning persons who devote themselves to ascertaining how little nutritive food people who work can consume and yet survive are not economists in the true sense of the word, but are the promoters of poverty and physical and mental decay. The real economist investigates with a view to secure larger employment and better compensation, assured that when these are secured the chief points have been attained.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

A charter member of the original society of the Daughters of the American Revolution writes to the New York Tribune, sharply criticizing the national organization for its centralization of power—a condition shown by the manner in which the offices, with the exception of the president, are divided among a few women a year after year—the concentration of energies upon petty personal politics, the neglect of the real interests and purposes of the body, and the consequent inability of delegates who spend time and money in coming to the annual meetings to carry through any profitable legislation or to enact any measures for the general benefit. The writer points to the recent gathering in Washington, whose proceedings were regarded by spectators as more amusing than a circus, as proof of her argument, and she certainly has no need of better evidence. But, perhaps, after all, she does not get at the real cause of the difficulty. Is it not possible that one reason why more definite and dignified ends are not accomplished

is that many members of the various branches of the society, perhaps many delegates, do not really understand what the original purposes of the organization or of its founders were? There is some reason to suspect that a proportion of them, at least, regard membership in the body as desirable because, as they fancy, it implies a certain exclusiveness. Is a knowledge or care very little about the patriotic purposes of the organization. Then, too, it must be remembered that organization is a comparatively new thing among women, and they are still fascinated with the workings of its machinery without regard to the results. They like to pull the strings and set the wheels to going just for the sake of seeing them go. The D. A. R. is not the only women's organization affected in this way. Women are as yet "jiners" for the novelty of the thing; when the novelty wears off and they learn that "what they are here for" is not the spoils of office, social entertainment or child's play, they will perhaps get down to serious work or perhaps resign and seek amusement in other fields.

COMEDY NEEDED.

The nomenclature which classes all the later performances under the general head of "amusements" leaves something to be desired, since so few of them do amuse. More people than ever before seek pleasure at the theater. The common need for entertainment, recreation, variety in life, finds expression in this way. Doubtless, many get what they want, for the needs of all are not the same, and neither entertainment nor recreation necessarily involves the element of amusement. An intense "problem play" or a tragedy of the deepest dye may afford the intellectual stimulus that one man, whose daily round is one of dull monotony, desires; another gets real enjoyment from a wild, swash-buckling melodrama; another from the heavy historical play. None of these are amusements, however, in the strict sense of the word. Even those who profess to enjoy them suffer a strain upon the emotions that leaves a feeling of mental and physical weariness. What nine people out of ten instinctively desire when they go to the theater is the relaxation of amusement—the forgetfulness of daily cares that only a laugh or a smile can bring. This is proved by the way in which men whose business occupations are exacting patronize the lighter class of plays, the so-called comic operas, the vaudeville performances, even the dreary relics of the once really amusing minstrel shows. It is proved again by the ease with which such audiences are entertained. Jokes hoary with age, or of a thinness that would make them unrecognizable outside, are here greeted with joyous applause. The hearers want to laugh, and accept the slightest opportunity. It is the same principle, a need for a change of thought, a lessening of the daily stress, that causes men like the late Charles A. Dana to spend leisure moments in perusal of the preposterous fiction found between the paper covers of five-cent novels. Such a choice of literature is common. It is said, with busy lawyers, physicians and other professional men upon whom the intellectual strain is especially great.

This need for amusement being so general, it is a great pity that the want of the public is met by the production of a better class of light plays. Even those who laugh at what is given them on the stage feel that they would like something original and new. Are the modern writers of plays not capable of producing a genuine comedy, or are they so wedded to the hedonistic, racing, rag-time style of production that they will consider no other? Or do they underrate the taste and power of appreciation of the public? There is some reason to believe that the fault is not altogether with the managers, and that, perhaps, they offer the best they can procure. Humor does not seem to be a common possession of the authors of the day. If one may judge by the novels printed, in a majority of these books the smallest touch of this quality is lacking. When it is found, even though of the horse-lout flavor, as in "David Harum," the popularity of the book containing it is assured. A genuinely funny play, especially if it were American in all its features, would, when properly presented, make the fortune of its author. It is not the day of great writers, either of comedy or tragedy, but something less than the greatest would supply a real want. The pressure of modern life demands relief, but if it affects the writing fraternity as well as the rest of the world, and checks the spirit of gaiety and wit so that they cannot provide the relief, where, then, shall we turn?

There is at least one thing to be said in favor of the Christian Scientist sect. It is their custom, it appears, to dedicate their churches only when the edifices are free from debt. As the members naturally desire the dedication to take place immediately after the completion of the building, the consequence is that the money is raised in advance and there is no debt left as an incubus. In Chicago to-day a congregation which has been in existence but two years and a half will dedicate a house of worship, whose cost, together with the ground, organ and furnishings, was \$120,000. This building, which is on the North Side, is, by the way, the second Christian Scientist Church in Chicago, the first, a very handsome building on Drexel boulevard, having been erected in 1897. A third church, also costly, is in course of erection on the West Side, and will, it is expected, be dedicated in June. A church lately built by this sect in New York is one of the finest in the city, and, as is well known, the "mother church" in Boston is a large and costly structure. All this building movement goes to show that the Christian Scientist denomination is coming to be one of wealth and influence, and that, whatever outsiders may think of its doctrines, it is not a society to be whistled down the wind.

It is evidently hoped that the latest assurances which the Russian government has voluntarily given the United States that it will not seek to annex Manchuria are made in good faith and that its promise to accept in full the principles set forth in the memorandum of Secretary Hay respecting the territory of China will be kept. The professions and acts of Russia are often confusing, but if friendship for the United States will lead Russia to accept our policy, much that has been said of that government will be withdrawn. It is unfortunate for Russia that all reports regarding her schemes and movements or alleged movements must come from sources hostile to the imperial rulers of that nation. The report that 300,000 troops were sent to occupy Manchuria is promptly

contradicted and shown to be impossible, for the reason that the present facilities of transportation would not enable Russia to assemble so many men in that province of China in a year.

President Andrew Draper, of the University of Illinois, in a recent address traced the development of the people of the United States for one hundred years, showing how the feeling of nationality had grown and how firmly the idea of democracy had been implanted in the minds of the people, thus proving that there is no tendency to imperialism. He also showed that there was more equal, vice, crime and pauperism in New York and Philadelphia a hundred years ago in proportion to population than at the present time. In 1800, in those two cities, one-twelfth of the people needed public assistance. In a population of 30,000 there was at one time 1,800 grogshops. If the Hadleys would speak less frequently and the Drapers oftener we might have more faith in ourselves.

What Kentucky papers call "a personal encounter," and what would be designated elsewhere as a street fight, occurred in Louisville a day or two ago between Gen. Castlemann, who formerly commanded a Kentucky regiment, and a Mr. Forrester, who was assistant adjutant general at the same time. While the fight was in progress a pleasing incident occurred, of which the Louisville Courier-Journal says:

General Castlemann's friends tell a story on him which illustrates his uniform politeness. They say that while the fighting was at its thickest Mr. Forrester's hat fell to the ground and the general stepped upon it. He immediately ceased hostilities and begged Mr. Forrester to pick it up, having stepped on his hat. He then proceeded to deal his opponent a few more body blows.

Belligerent amenities like that are like the quality of weather, dividing walls in politics. They could scarcely occur outside of Kentucky, where the requirements of the knightly code are observed in all their strictness.

The United States Circuit Court in Trenton, N. J., has issued a temporary injunction to prevent Professor Devoe from giving his weather predictions to the public through a Tennessee firm which has paid him for the exclusive right to use his forecasting of weather. How much the Tennessee firm paid for the exclusive use of the prophetic utterances of the professor does not appear. His methods of divining the quality of weather do not depend upon the taking of observations, as does the National Bureau, but he gives a day to the work now and then and fixes the weather for months.

It is said of a new novel by a Chicago man that the streets of Chicago have never been pictured more clearly, nor the life that surges along them interpreted more faithfully than is done in this book. But why embalm the streets of Chicago in this fashion, considering their general unattractiveness?

FROM HITHER AND YON.

The Alchemy of Spring. O'er where the cow-slip lies unburned. The milk-weed shooteth up. And when the winds of March have churled. Behold—the butter-cup! —Judge.

Forever Too Late.

Chicago Record-Herald. "How much do you weigh?" "Oh, dear! Do you know, I'm so provoked! They forgot all about weighing the dead little thing until it was nearly two hours old, so we'll never know."

The Proper Spirit.

First Doctor—But I don't think it absolutely necessary to operate. Second Doctor—But I told them that it was. "Oh, well, then, as a matter of professional courtesy, I, of course, shall stand by what you said."

One Sufficient.

Philadelphia Press. Tommy—Mamma, give Elsie an apple, won't you? Mamma—I suppose you'd want one for yourself, too. Tommy—No. Just give one to Elsie. We're going to play Adam and Eve, and she's going to tempt me.

Staggering.

Detroit Journal. "Would you believe our senses." "Yes," said the savant, "this apparatus for measuring time is extremely delicate! By means of it we are enabled to estimate the interval during which Mr. Rockefeller's income is one dollar. Actually!" "How perfectly staggering, in thought. It suggested magic, in fact."

Monarch and Vassal.

Chicago Tribune. The preacher's theme was "Daniel." And the benediction one of the strangers in the congregation asked an usher what the pastor's name was. "His name is King," said the usher. "Will you introduce me to him?" "With pleasure. What is your name?" "Daniel."

LITERARY NOTES.

It is reported by booksellers that Kipling's "Jungle Books," though by no means the latest written, sell better than his other works. Mr. Maurice Hewlett is giving up his post in the British civil service in order to devote himself entirely to literature. He is at present writing a short story. Mrs. Max Muller has undertaken to write a history of her husband, Prof. Max Muller, and desires to collect all letters and papers which may be in the possession of his friends.

Julian Hawthorne writes of Selma Lagerlof, the Norwegian novelist, that he thinks she exhibits a higher form of genius than even Bjornsen. "She is in some respects," he says, "the greatest woman writer that ever lived."

Mr. Laurence Housman has solemnly declared that he is the author of the "Englishwoman's Love Letters," so it will now be thought necessary by many people to search for a new author. Interest in the book seems to have died out, however, as suddenly as it arose.

Although the published books of Baron Acton, professor of modern history at Cambridge, are in inverse ratio to his attainments, he is one of the most learned men of modern times. He is also a prominent Roman Catholic layman of England, and is in his sixty-seventh year.

The somewhat exaggerated reports of Tolstoy's illness are contradicted by the fact that the novelist is hard at work on his new novel, "Father Sergius." Nor does his excommunication prevent him from handling dangerous and forbidden themes. The forthcoming story deals with the spiritual history of a monk who at one time was a great enemy of the pope and who was almost worshipped by the believers as a saint.

Henrik Ibsen, the eminent Norwegian writer, is fastidiously neat in his habits, punctual and painstaking, but never in a hurry, says Current Literature. He keeps on his table a small tray containing a number of grotesque figures, among them a wooden bear, two or three cats and some

"MODERN FABLES," by George Ade.

The Modern Fable of the Second-Story Worker and the Organizer &c

(Copyrighted, 1901, by Robert Howard Russell.)

One Night a Schmeer who was learning how to get the coin without investing anything on his own Hook was awakened by a Noise in his Bed Chamber. He peeked out over the Coverlet and saw a Professional Burglar trying in vain to find something valuable.

"You are on a cold Lay," said the recumbent Man to the Robber. "The Assessor and Sheriff have been here and have taken away your Assets, so what chance have you got? There must be something wrong with your System of House Breaking or else you would be following a stronger Lead than this. Also permit me to say that you must be shy on Professional Courtesy or you would not try to clean out a Brother who has made a Living by Sharp Practices ever since he was seventeen years old."

"Alas, the Competition is so keen and the Swag so uncertain we have to tackle any Job that offers itself," said the Other.

"I see," said the Schmeer, sitting up on the Hums. "The Business is being put on the Bum by Overproduction and too many Operating Expenses. What you want is to get some Smooth Citizen of about my Build to come along and merge all the Burglary-Organizations into one grand Syndicate with a New Jersey Charter. We could give it a harmless and misleading Name, such as the American House Cleaning Company. We can pull every one into the Combine. If obscure outside Burglars refuse to put their Jimmies and Jacks into the Pool we will send Agents into their respective Territories to steal up everything before they can get at it, thus teaching them the Beauties of Co-operation. We will compel them to eat Humble Pie and get into the Band Wagon on our Terms."

"It looks Good," said the Burglar, "and I suppose it will be sufficiently illegal to make it Enjoyable."

"The Legality of the Deal cuts no Figure so long as we are not landed," said the Organizer. "There will be a Cracklerjack Lawyer employed by the Year, whose one Duty it will be to keep the Directors out of Jail. If there is any Hue and Cry against the Monopoly we can get some one with white Side Whiskers to be interviewed, and he will explain why it will be better for the People to have their Houses entered by the Representatives of a large and carefully managed Corporation."

"This will certainly be Lavender for those who get in on the Ground Floor," said the Burglar. "But why are you, without any Private Interest as a Poreh Climber or any Experience in picking Locks, so eager to promote this Scheme?"

"It will be a Stock Company, and for my Services in getting you together in this benevolent Combination I will ask for two-thirds of the shares," replied the Organizer. "I am learning that the High Guy these days is not the Producer. The real Patsy is the one who calls for a Jack Pot and then takes charge of the Kitty. You go out and tell all your Competitors to get into Line. I need the Stuff."

And another Industrial Alliance was kept out of the Newspapers.

Moral—Everything is Velvet to those who take no Chances.

THE MODERN FABLE OF THE WOMAN'S TRUE FRIEND AND THE HOPEFUL ANTIQUE.

One Day a Beauty Doctor sat in her Pink Reception Room hoping that she resembled her Lithographs. Her Income was a Dollar every time she took a Full Breath. She got it by selling Frodo Food and a Preparation for getting rid of Moles called Moline. Her Hot Specialty was to Calcimine the Her-Beens and feed them a little Ginger and send them into the Arena looking like Vassar Girls unless the Rain happened to wash it off. It did not take her long to put an Extension on an Eyebrow, and she could provide a Blush for those who had been going to Card Parties so long that they had forgotten how to blush. When she got after a Wild Hair the Hair simply threw up both Hands and quit. In a little Folder entitled "How to Fool Everybody except those who live in the Everbody" she had proved that there was no Reason why a Girl of sixty should not look nineteen if she put on enough Shellac and kept out of the Light.

The Beauty Doctor had seen many a Derelict float in for a new Coat of Armor Plate, but the Nobody's Darling that waited in this Day established a Record. She was something like Polity. That is, if she carried any Adipose it did not show in her Face or Feet. And she wouldn't have torn under the Wing. She had a Bird's-Eye Maple Complexion and wore one of these Gowns that you get by measuring yourself with a String and sending Two Dollars.

She had about as much Common Sense as a Disturber. Without saying anything in her Relations, it may be added that she resembled a Daily Hint from the Short Timber.

"I saw your Card in the Bee-Keepers' Bazaar and I have decided to back in for a few Repairs," said the Visitor. "If you can build me out with a Set of Curves the rabbits. He is reported to have said: 'I never write a single line without having that boy and his occupants before me on my table. I could not get a word of work done. But why I use them is my own secret.'"

This caustic paragraph is from an English paper: "During the inquiries into the proposed alteration of the copyright laws in America the commissioner of labor is said to have asked the question: 'Is piracy beneficial to printers or publishers?' Apparently, if the answer were in the affirmative, it would be a point against international copyright. This is the polemic beautiful example of utilitarianism. It would be much on the same lines if a royal commission were appointed to answer the questions: Is murder profitable to policemen? Is burglary beneficial to locksmiths? Or, is robbery with violence helpful to the clothing trades?"

Mr. Augustine Birrell once incautiously purchased the works of Hannah More—nineteen fat volumes of them—for something like \$2.50. They became a nuisance, and he was puzzled as to how to get rid of them. As for selling them, it is not easy to sell nineteen volumes of a dead author, particularly if you live three miles from a railway station and do not keep a trap. Mr. Birrell resorted to a desperate expedient: "I had to do something, and I thought of the only way I could get rid of them. I buried them in the back garden. 'Out of sight, out of mind,' he checked, stamping them down. 'I shall leave them where they are, nothing between them and the pole, with leagues and leagues of hungry earth.'"

The London Mail says, in speaking of the output of books: "It is difficult to understand how publishers can hope to make any profit on half or even a quarter of the books they issue. During one week of February 122 books of one kind and another were published. This number includes new editions, novels, poetry, schoolbooks, sermons, proceedings of learned societies, etc. It may be safely assumed that, despite St. Walter Besant and the Authors' Society, a great many of the poems and novels are still issued at the author's expense. So the output of six-shilling novels that booksellers are declining to take copies

of them, even on sale or return. The Publishers' Circular suggests that, as there is nothing like a book for stopping a bullet, it would be a good thing to pad the soldiers in South Africa with reminders of six-shilling novels. Five million would render them invulnerable and clear out two million more, at a very small cost to the government."

WISDOM OF CURRENT FICTION.

Discretion means a good memory for the lies you've told.—Robert Orange.

The interest on our illegal debts is frequently claimed in public.—A Little Grey Sheep.

Why do people of common sense ever credit gossip emanating from a jealous woman?—Cross and Anchor.

Oftentimes the necessity for more physical exertion alleviates the drag of physical hopelessness and induces men to forget themselves.—John Vtut.

Milton wrote "Paradise Lost" to justify the adult in his mind to men. No one yet has ventured on an epic to justify the ways to them of women.—The Venetian Ser.

After all, good comradeship is a steeper force than love, if not an overwhelming